

**GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY TASK FORCE  
FOURTH MEETING SUMMARY  
January 14, 2002**

**Prepared by:  
The Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Conservation  
Ground Water Management Staff  
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## **SUMMARY**

### **STAFF REPORT**

Mr. Duplechin reported the staff received fifty-three (53) water well information sheets since the last Commission meeting, bringing the total number of registrations to 208.

The following three just causes were issued since the last Commission meeting:

1. Test hole for the Town of Broussard – the Town needs to proceed as soon as funding is appropriated,
2. Agricultural well for Hipolito Flores – for short notice, and
3. Irrigation well for Copper Mill Golf Course – short notice.

There were eight (8) forms sent in that did not give 60-day notice and the owner did not request a just cause variance. There was one form sent in after the well was drilled and the owner did not request a just cause variance.

The staff's investigation into creating a water well database on DNR's Strategic Online Natural Resources Information System, or SONRIS, concluded that without precise GIS information it would be impractical to try and show where the wells were on a map format. An alternative suggestion is to put the Well Information Sheets on the website themselves.

After the DNR's move to the LaSalle Building, the staff will investigate on-line registration.

### **Web Site**

The following items were updated to the web page:

1. The last Commission meeting transcripts and transcript summaries were posted on the web page. The Staff drafted a meeting summary for the last Task Force meeting and posted it on the web site as well.
2. Announcements and agendas for the Commission and Task Force Meetings are also posted on the web site monthly.
3. A copy of the latest emergency rule is also posted on the web site.

### **News Release**

The Staff received the final press release from the Outreach Subcommittee and forwarded to the Governor's Office for distribution. The press release will be issued in the near future.

### **Various Meetings Attended**

Members of the Ground Water Management Commission staff attended the following meetings:

The Technical Committee meeting of the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission was held on December 4, 2001 at the USGS office. The meeting consisted of reviews of several cooperative projects with the USGS. Of interest to this Commission were the 2001 potentiometric maps of the 1,200 and 1,500-foot sands. The 1,200-foot sand showed a 20-foot decline in the past ten (10) years and the 1,500-foot sand showed a 10-15 foot decline in the last ten (10) years. In addition, the 1,500-foot sand in the vicinity of Government Street showed a recharge from the influx of water from the 800-foot sand. The maps for the 400, 600, and 800-foot sands will be completed in about six months.

The Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission meeting was held on December 11, 2001 at the USGS. No item of specific interest to this Commission was discussed.

The Technical Subcommittee for the Ground Water Management Commission was held on December 17, 2001 at the USGS office. Information and contacts from various federal and state agencies were given to the consultant.

The Outreach Subcommittee for the Ground Water Management Commission was held on January 9, 2002 at the Farm Bureau State Office. General and short-term goals were discussed and a draft completed.

### **TASK FORCE COMMENTS**

Representative William Daniel reported that the intention of Act 446 is not to duplicate any work delegated to other state agencies. Senator Fred Hoyt reported that the message of the purpose of the Ground Water Management Commission is getting out to the public and that information distributed to the public should be based on scientific data. Senator Hoyt and Representative Daniel stated that it was not their intent in Act 446 to require owners of Domestic and Replacement Wells to notify the Commissioner of Conservation of their installation.

Senator David Cain thanked CLECO for their good community relations. He asked Commissioner Gautreaux how long the application process for declaring a critical ground water area would take. Commissioner Gautreaux responded that the hearing process had not begun and guessed that the process could take five (5) to six (6) months. Commissioner Gautreaux then asked a representative from the Sparta Ground Water Commission, Olevia McDonald, to respond. Ms. McDonald stated for the record that the Sparta Ground Water Commission did not issue permits. Ms. McDonald stated that once the information gathering is completed and guidelines are in place, the Sparta

Commission will act by establishing management measures. Senator Cain commended the Advisory Task Force and Ground Water Staff for the work they have done.

### **ADVISORY TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Agriculture Subcommittee:**

No report

#### **Outreach Subcommittee:**

Linda Walker reported that revisions were made to the short term goals. The next meeting will be in late January to fine tune the long term goals. She asked the Advisory Task Force members to turn in the names of editors of newsletters or magazines their affiliates publish.

#### **Technical Subcommittee:**

Charlie Demas reported the subcommittee met on December 17, 2001 to exchange information with the consultants.

#### **Industrial Subcommittee:**

Mike Lyons reported the subcommittee met in November. They are gathering information from the surveys distributed to various industries on their water usage both present and in the future. A summary will be available for the next Advisory Task Force meeting.

#### **Economic Subcommittee:**

No report

#### **Policy Subcommittee:**

No report

#### **Public Supply Subcommittee:**

No report

Commissioner Gautreaux asked Representative N.J. Damico if he had any comments. He had no comment.

#### **Consultant Report:**

Bruce Darling, Ph. D. stated that the information given to C.H. Fenstermaker and LBG-Guyton & Associates from the Technical Subcommittee meeting is immense. The consultants are in the process of reviewing the information. He also stated that the water demand projections and the population trend (census) do not match.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Gautreaux introduced Robert Twilley, Ph. D., Director of the Center for Environmental Technology; Professor, Department of Biology, University of Louisiana, Lafayette. Dr. Twilley gave a presentation on Global Climate Changes and the effect on

the Gulf Coast Area. Dr. Twilley stated the report he was giving was useful for policy makers, educators, the public, etc. The information he and others compiled in the book he distributed was put together by the United Nations. He stated the bottom line for the Gulf Coast region is that it is the most uncertain region based on climate changes.

In the last 100 years, the temperature (IPCC) has risen one (1) degree. It is expected to rise three (3) degrees in the next 100 years. Trends indicated in all scientific models are the same and are positive. An increase of 14" to 15" of rainfall is expected in the next 100 years. This means scientists expect a 44" increase in water rise. Forty-four (44%) percent of the U.S. rainfall ends up in the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers.

There is no evidence that the number of hurricanes is affected by climate. He indicated that the Louisiana will have a higher water change along the coast. Oceans warming are the biggest validation to global warming.

#### **TASK FORCE COMMENTS**

Representative Daniel stated that in the interim of developing a Ground Water Management Plan, the Ground Water Management Commission has the authority to act.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Doug Daigle of the Mississippi Alliance had questions for Dr. Twilley.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Tentatively set for Wednesday, February 20, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. Location to be announced.